

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 12-15. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 6, 12 and 16 have been amended, claims 7, 11 and 15 have been cancelled, and no new claims have been added. As a result, claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-14 and 16 remain pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The undersigned acknowledges with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 8-11. Further, the undersigned thanks the Examiner for courtesies extended during a telephone conference on May 25, 2010. As discussed, the Examiner has found claims 3, 4, 6 and 16 allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claims 3, 6 and 16 have been amended as proposed. As a result, claims 3, 4 and 16 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings on the grounds that the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the feature of matrices being curved in claims 7, 11 and 15. In response, claims 7, 11 and 15 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, this objection is now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Petsch (DE 103 46 133). Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the above cited reference, as features of the claim are not taught by or rendered obvious in view of the applied reference, either independently or in combination with other art of record. For example, amended claim 1 recites a bearing including a frame surrounding two matrices, each matrix with a plurality of spheres. The spheres of one matrix are located so as to lie at least in part against the spheres of the other matrix so that rotation of spheres of one matrix results in counter rotation of spheres of the other matrix. The spheres of each matrix project beyond the frame and are retained in the

same position relative to the frame during rotation. In the exemplary bearing shown in Figure 2, the upper spheres 10 of the first matrix 12 project upward beyond the frame 2, and the lower spheres 14 of the second matrix 16 project downward beyond the frame 2. In contrast, Petsch teaches an assembly in which the spheres 20 of one matrix are enclosed within the frame 12 (Figure 2). Other embodiments taught or suggested by Petsch teach a similar enclosed arrangement (Figures 4, 5). For at least this reason, claim 1 is patentable over the prior art of record and is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 12 is also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reason. Therefore, reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 2, 5, 7 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petsch. Claims 2 and 5 are patentable at least based on direct or indirect dependence on claim 1 and are condition for allowance. Claims 13 and 14 are patentable at least based on direct or indirect dependence on claim 12 and are condition for allowance. Claims 7 and 15 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

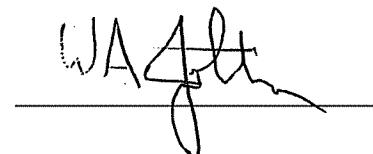
Conclusion

In summary, independent claims 1, 12 are believed to be allowable. Further, the remaining pending dependent claims are allowable at least based on direct or indirect dependence from claims 1 and 12. Claims 8-11 were previously allowed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims of this application is respectfully solicited. Furthermore, if the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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